Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Amended) A battery structure for an electric vehicle where a plurality of pillar shaped battery cells are accommodated in a battery case and the battery cells are electrically connected, comprising:

an upper covering member, having a plurality of holding ribs for dividing the battery case into a plurality of partition rooms in a longitudinal direction and for holding the battery cells in a horizontal state, and in which a plurality of ventilating holes for discharging cooling air from the battery case are formed;

a middle covering member, having a plurality of holding ribs for dividing the battery case into a plurality of partition rooms in a longitudinal direction and for holding the battery cells in a horizontal state;

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a lower covering member, having a plurality of holding ribs for dividing the battery case into a plurality of partition rooms in a longitudinal direction and for holding the battery cells in a horizontal state, and in which a plurality of ventilating holes, whose total aperture area is larger than a total aperture area of the ventilating holes formed in the upper covering member, for introducing the cooling air into the battery case are formed; and

two side covering members for covering exposed side surfaces of the battery cells which are held in the horizontal state,

wherein an aperture area of each of the ventilating holes formed in the upper covering member is smaller than that of each of the ventilating holes formed in the lower covering member, and the number of the ventilating holes formed in the upper covering member is larger than that of the ventilating holes formed in the lower covering member such that battery cells which are held by the upper covering member and the middle covering member

and battery cells which are held by the middle covering member and the lower covering member are cooled uniformly.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) A battery structure for an electric vehicle according to claim 1, wherein circular arc shaped holding end surfaces, on which groove portions are formed in a circumferential direction, for holding the battery cells, are formed in the holding ribs, and adhesives are filled up in the groove portions.

4. (Original) A battery structure for an electric vehicle according to claim 1, wherein a tunnel part which penetrates through the upper covering member in a longitudinal direction and which accommodates lead wires for internal wiring is formed in the upper covering member, and the lead wires are not exposed to an exterior of the battery case.

5. (Original) A battery structure for an electric vehicle according to claim 1, wherein the middle covering member has strengthening ribs in a longitudinal direction for strengthening the holding ribs of the middle covering member.

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6. (Original) A battery structure for an electric vehicle according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of foot portions which are provided so as to project out from a bottom face of the lower covering are formed, and the bottom face is separated from a mounting floor for the battery case.

7. (Original) A battery structure for an electric vehicle according to claim 1, wherein the exposed side surfaces of the battery cells are connected with a connecting member for connecting battery cells electrically in series.

8. (Original) A battery structure for an electric vehicle according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of fuse holding ribs for holding a fuse from a bottom side are formed so as to project toward the fuse on an upper portion of one of the side covering members, and the fuse is held and fixed in a vertical direction by the fuse holding ribs and a fuse cover on which a plurality

of fuse holding ribs for holding the fuse from an upper side are formed so as to project inside the fuse cover.

9. (Original) A battery structure for an electric vehicle according to claim 1, wherein an accommodating portion for accommodating a battery cell control unit for controlling the battery cells is disposed at an upper portion of another of the side covering members, a plurality of unit holding ribs for holding the battery cell control unit from a bottom side are formed so as to project toward the battery cell control unit, and the battery cell control unit is held and fixed in a vertical direction by the unit holding ribs and a battery cell control unit cover on which a plurality of unit holding ribs for holding the battery cell control unit from an upper side are formed so as to project inside the battery cell control unit cover.

10. (Original) A battery structure for an electric vehicle according to claim 8, wherein external output terminals are formed vertically via an insulating material so as to stride over the fuse on the upper portion of one of the side covering members.

11. (Original) A battery structure for an electric vehicle according to claim 9, wherein the accommodating portion is mounted on the upper covering unit.

12. (Original) A battery structure for an electric vehicle according to claim 1, wherein the battery cell is covered with an outer tube made of resin material having electrical insulation.

13. (Original) A battery structure for an electric vehicle according to claim 1, wherein the battery case accommodates eight battery cells in total in four rows along a horizontal direction and in two rows along a vertical direction.

14. (Original) A battery structure for an electric vehicle according to claim 1, wherein each of joining end faces of the upper covering member, the middle covering member and the lower covering member has a straight scarf joint structure.

15. (Original) A battery structure for an electric vehicle according to claim 2, wherein the aperture area of each of the ventilating holes formed in the upper covering member is ½ of that of each of the ventilating holes formed in the lower covering member.

16. (Original) A battery structure for an electric vehicle according to claim 3, wherein the holding ribs are at least formed at positions where both end portions of electrode groups of the battery cells are held.

17. (Original) A battery structure for an electric vehicle according to claim 3, wherein one of the holing ribs is formed at a central position, in a longitudinal direction, of the battery cells.

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18. (Original) A battery structure for an electric vehicle according to claim 4, wherein the tunnel part is formed at an inside of the upper covering member.

19. (Original) A battery module having the battery structure for an electric vehicle according to claim 1.

20. (Original) A battery module having the battery structure for an electric vehicle according to claim 2.

21. (New) The battery structure of claim 1, further comprising voltage detecting leads associated with the battery structure for detecting voltages of each battery cell.

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